

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the disclosure, rejected claims 1, 3 and 14 as anticipated by the Wiedemer German Patent Document, rejected claim 4 as obvious over Wiedemer in view of Mould et al. European Patent Document, rejected claims 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 16, 18, 22, and 24 as obvious over Wiedemer German Patent Document in view of Wiedemer European Patent Document, and indicated that claims 2, 9, 11, 12, 19, 20, 21 and 23 would be allowable if redrafted in independent form.

Applicant notes that the Office Action Summary form notes the drawings as filed but does not indicate if the drawings are accepted or objected to. Clarification of the status of the drawings is requested.

Disclosure Objection

The two instances of erroneous reference characters in the specification noted by the Examiner have been corrected. Applicant submits that the objection is thereby overcome.

35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1 and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice, so the rejection is moot. Claim 3 is amended to depend from now independent claim 2, which is indicated as allowable.

35 USC 103(a)

Claim 4 is amended to depend from now independent claim 2. Claims 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 16, 18, 22 and 24 depend from or are amended to depend from claims indicated as allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 9, 11, 12, 19, 10, 21 and 23 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of the claims from which they depended and are thus now in independent form and are as such allowable. The remaining pending claims depend either directly or indirectly from these allowable independent claims. As such, all claims in the present application are in form for allowance.

Conclusion

The issues in the Office Action have been addressed and the application placed into form for immediate allowance. Applicant respectfully requests early favorable reconsideration of the election requirement, and favorable consideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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